

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 EUR-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 ICA-11 /096 W
-----034388 241440Z /43
R 230903Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6676
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
SUZJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAM-
PUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953, (B) BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE H. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE H, 25, FROM BATTAMBANG WAS A STUDENT UNTIL THE
KHMER ROUGE VICTORY IN APRIL 1975. AFTERWARD HE BECAME A
FARMER. HE ESCAPED TO THAILAND ON MAY 16, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT
FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. WE HAD
300 GRAMS OF RICE A DAY FOR THREE PEOPLE FROM 1975 TO 1978.
THERE
WAS NO CHANGE IN THE RATION. THERE WERE ONLY HERBAL
MEDICINES, AND PEOPLE WERE FREQUENTLY SICK WITH DYSENTERY
AND BERIBERI.

4. QTE WE WORKED EACH DAY FROM 0500 TO 1200, 1230 TO 1800,
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AND, OCCASIONALLY, FROM 1900 TO 2200. IF THERE WAS NO WORK,
I SLEPT. THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO AND I WAS VERY TIRED.
THERE WERE ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE AT FIRST IN THE VILLAGE. I
ATE WITH 150 OF THEM. BY 1978 THERE WERE FEWER THAN 500
PEOPLE LEFT IN THE VILLAGE. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE DEAD HAD DIED
BY ASSASSINATION AND TWENTY PERCENT OF DISEASE. MOST OF
THOSE ASSASSINATED WERE FORMER OFFICIALS. I PERSONALLY

SAW ABOUT SIXTY SOLDIERS LOADED ON A TRUCK IN 1975 AND
HAULED OFF TO BE KILLED. THE DRIVER OF THE TRUCK, NAMED
NIENG, LATER TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD BEEN KILLED. GRADUALLY,
FORMER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WERE ALSO KILLED. THE KHMER
ROUGE DID NOT KNOW THAT I WAS A STUDENT. THREE DAYS
BEFORE I FLED TO THAILAND, I FOUND OUT FROM A SPY
(SCHLOP) THAT I HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND WOULD BE KILLED.

5. QTE MY YOUNGER BROTHER WAS KILLED FOR BEING LATE
THREE TIMES TO WORK, FIFTEEN OR TWENTY MINUTES. THEY
CARRIED HIM AWAY. MY FATHER SAW HIM KILLED AND TOLD ME.
HE WAS 16.

6. QTE DISCIPLINE. FOR MINOR FAULTS, YOU WOULD BE WARNED.
THE SECOND TIME YOU WOULD BE WARNED AND EITHER KILLED
AT HOME OR TAKEN AWAY TO THE FOREST.

7. QTE YOU COULD NOT CRITICIZE OR SUGGEST ANYTHING OR
EVEN SPEAK TO THE VILLAGE CHIEF. ANY CRITICISM OF THE
REGIME MEANT IMMEDIATE DEATH.

8. QTE HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HUMAN
RIGHTS OR JUSTICE IN CAMBODIA. THERE IS ONLY FASCISM,
AND DEATH, WITHOUT PITY. END QTE
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO17974
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DECONTROLLED PER 7/7/78 MEMO FROM EAVLC - JUDITH R. JOHNSON
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-1054
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780628/aaaaaxoa.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f081b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 157953, 78 BANGKOK 17849
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2234136
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20041004
Subject: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAM- PUCHEA
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f081b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014